

## Street art or public nuisance?



Buskers have traditionally had it tough in China, a country that doesn't have a tradition of supporting "street performers." But a new regulation in Shanghai might pave the way for other first-tier cities to give street artists the chance to gain the legitimacy they seek.

Alongside beggars in the subway, underpasses and public venues, however, will these musicians ever be able to convince the public that their trade is worthy of respect?

**Read more on Pages 3-5**

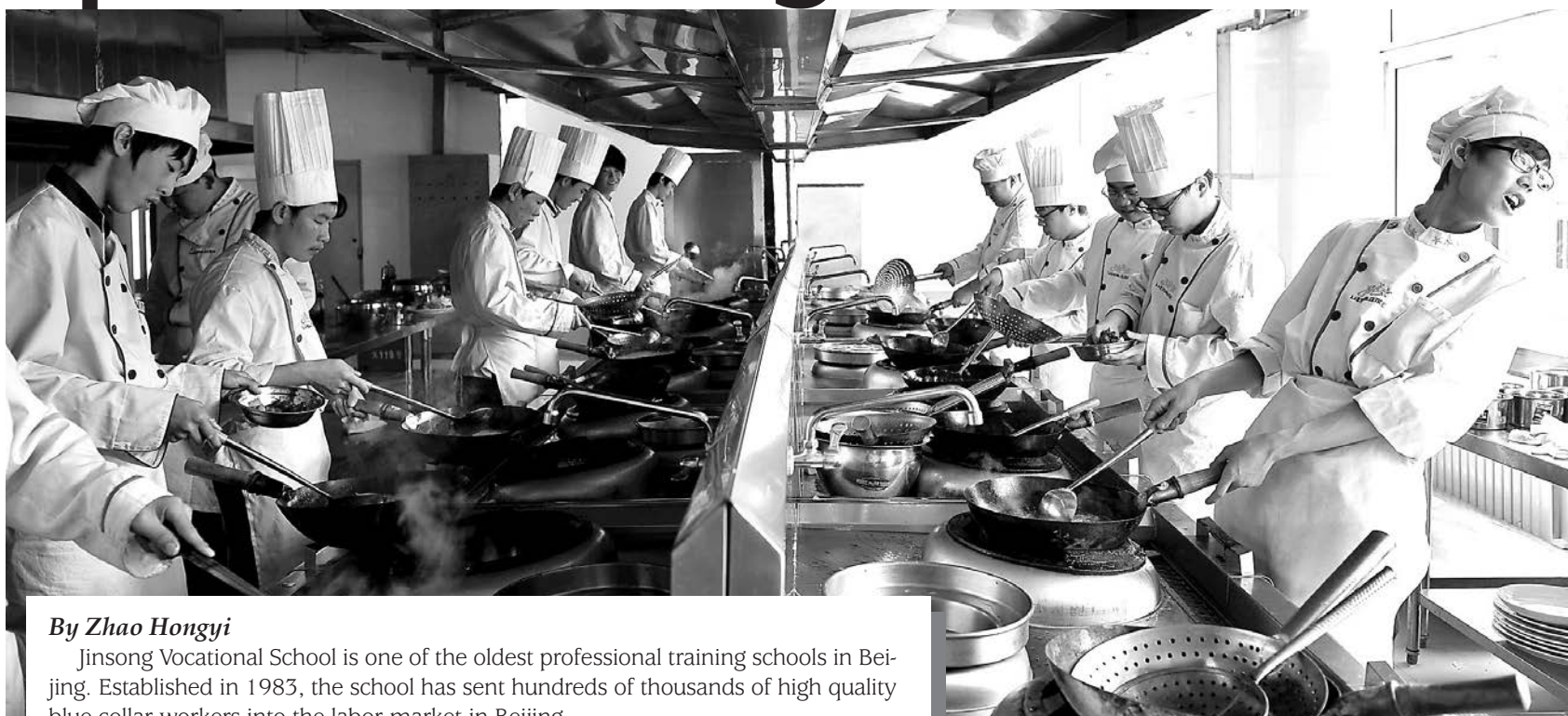


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### Vocational schools ready for international students

Bolstered by success, Jinsong Vocational School isn't just expanding, but opening its doors to foreign students.

# Beijing vocational school opens to foreigners



By Zhao Hongyi

Jinsong Vocational School is one of the oldest professional training schools in Beijing. Established in 1983, the school has sent hundreds of thousands of high quality blue-collar workers into the labor market in Beijing.

Today, Jinsong Vocational School, like a dozen professional schools in the capital, is ready to receive foreign students.

*Students of Chinese cooking are busy in the school kitchen preparing famous Chinese dishes.*

CFP Photos

## The hottest kitchen

Among the 4,000 students studying on campus, 1,200 are learning to cook. Most will become chefs in hotels.

"The kitchen is built strictly according to the standards of a five-star hotel," said He Shirong, president of the vocational school. "Our purpose is to offer opportunities to each student to cook the dishes by themselves and enable them to gain experience and know-how in this process."

The second hottest course is beauty and hairdressing. Years ago, many students and teachers of the school went to South Korea to study hairdressing. Today, 700 students are studying on its campus and can easily find high-paying jobs after graduation.

Besides the professional courses, the school puts great emphasis on professional morality education.

President He has been teaching in this vocational school since 1983, soon after graduating with a degree in English. She has been paying more attention to the professional morality of her students.

For example, whenever the school teaches a specific dish, the president requires the students to cook the same dish back home for their parents. On International Women's Day on March 8, she asks her students to help their parents with



*Students practising Chinese martial arts*



*Calligraphy is a popular course for foreign students.*

household chores.

"These are all part of our traditional Chinese philosophy," she says. "The purpose is to help the students to calm down and focus on their profession and real life."

## Glorious history

The founding of the vocational school in 1983 provided the qualified professional blue-collar workers that the market badly needed then, particularly

at a time when the country was building its market economy.

In the 1990s the school entered a new era of prosperity. It grew from 3,000 enrolled students to 9,000.

The number of faculties also increased to include Chinese cooking, Western cooking, beauty and hairdressing, hotel management, audio and video arts, tourism services and management, music composing and

computer science.

"In the 1990s, our school was so popular that we received tens of thousands of applications each year," He said. "Our enrollment score was much higher than most of the senior high schools."

The vocational school receives graduates from junior high schools who have finished their nine-year compulsory education and do not have the intention and interest to enter university for higher education.

After the Chinese universities were allowed to receive more candidates in the 1990s, interest in vocational schools decreased.

But excellent schools always maintain market share. Jinsong Vocational School has never worried about a lack of candidate students.

In 2012, the school accepted 1,200 students from more than 11,000 applications, much higher than the 300 to 500 they expected to accept.

## New targets and markets

"Over the previous years, we have been receiving an increasing number of foreign students and visiting vocational school teachers," He said. "Most of them are from the US, Germany, Russia, France and Israel."

The number of foreign students and teachers visiting the school climbed to between 1,500 and 2,000 last year. Many

of the foreign students came from foreign families living and working in China, and most of them have an interest in Chinese cooking.

"We have to receive one or two foreign delegations every week," said Wang Xinfeng, a teacher of Chinese cooking at the school. "And we teach them a number of Chinese dishes like fried pork with pineapple, kung pao chicken and mapo tofu."

Aside from Chinese cooking, the school has prepared more courses for foreign students, including Chinese handwriting, martial arts, hotel management and photography.

The school has four campuses in Beijing: Jinsong, Shuanglong, Xibahe and Xinyuanli and is building its fifth and largest campus in the Changying area, neighboring the central business district to the east.

Jinsong School isn't alone. In Beijing, dozens of vocational schools have the same interest, including Beijing Huangzhuang Vocational School, Beijing Changping Vocational School and Beijing Daxing Vocational School.

"This is a new trend for promoting Chinese culture and education to the world," said Ma Yue, professor of education at Peking University. "That shows the confidence and sophistication of the vocational school in China."

# Spare room for the city's soul

Major cities to give green light to buskers and street performers

By Huang Daohen

The lifeblood of any metropolitan area runs through its streets. Yet where is the soul?

In major Chinese cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, it seems any semblance of soul is usually chased away by authorities.

But Shanghai wants to change that. At a recent hearing, the city government revealed it has been working on the city's first regulation to encourage street performers. Other cities like Guangzhou and Xi'an have also welcomed the idea.

## Regulating street performances

It isn't easy playing guitars, fiddles and drums with a hefty loudspeaker on the street without attracting police attention. Street performances aren't encouraged as a form of public entertainment in many big cities.

Currently, there is no law concerning the legality of street performers, nor is there an official department that oversees this area.

But that may soon change.

Shanghai plans to grant legal status for its street performers, a senior official with the city's Party Congress recently said at a press conference. Local media reports the city will also launch an administrative system that ensures street performers can show off their talents.

"We are still working on the draft," said an employee at Shanghai Municipal Bureau of City Administration and Law Enforcement, who wished to remain anonymous.

"Qualified performers will get permission, and there will be special areas set for them," she said, adding that when the draft is complete, they will give it to the local people's congress.

"We'll be the first city in China to give a green light to street performers," Luo Huaizhen, a playwright, told Xinhua. In the past eight years, Luo, also a deputy at Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, has urged the government to legalize street performances.

"It's part of the city's culture," Luo said. "Because of such performances, some skills have been passed on through the years."

Luo said he hates seeing street performers stopped by the police. "It feels like people in China tend to have a bad impression about street performers, seeing them as beggars or homeless people," he said.

But in Europe, even India, one can always find artists and performers doing creative shows in public spaces, he said.

Luo said he was glad to see Shanghai begin trialing its new plan.

Local citizens and street performers alike are welcoming the change.

"Thank you so much. I really appreciate it," street singer Ren Yueli posted on her Sina Weibo. Ren is better known by her nickname Xidan Girl.

In a previous interview with Beijing TV, Ren said performing on the street was a way to survive. "Who would sing in the underpass if you had another choice?" she said.

Ren said that street singers are driven off by urban management officials. But they would come out again after the authorities leave.

It's like a guerilla war, she said.

Cities such as Guangzhou and Xi'an are warming up to the idea of using laws to protect street performances.



## Buskers in London

By Bao Chengrong

Contrary to street performers in China who often face discrimination, Western performers are treated with respect.

At Covent Garden in London, busker James Bowen plays Oasis songs on his acoustic guitar. Next to him sits a cat wearing a warm neckerchief. Every now and then, Bowen bends down to high-five his cat, Bob.

The busking cat has made Bowen the most renowned busker and a best-selling writer in London. His book *A Street Cat Named Bob* has sold more than 250,000 copies. It records how the cat helped him kick his heroin addiction and change his life. The book is expected to be turned into a Hollywood film.

Though few buskers around the city have the fame and fortune of Bowen, they are still allowed to use the platform to make a living and display their talents. A busker is able to earn £50 per hour on busy roads, such as Oxford Circus and Bond Street.

The London Underground network is home to live musical

buskers, who perform for thousands of customers.

But to stand out is not easy. In 2001, London Underground legalized underground busking, but also required new buskers to pass a first round of auditions and pay £20 to get a performing license. They have to renew every year to prove their qualifications.

More than 600 performers have been licensed to busk underground, more than half of whom have other jobs, including doctors, teachers and accountants.

About 200 performers are spread across 25 Tube stations, aiming to meet "the varied musical tastes of customers." For instance, customers can choose to enjoy the blues at Victoria station, funk at Waterloo station and jazz at the Holborn station.

Glenn Reffin, London Underground revenue development manager, said customer surveys always reveal that buskers are welcome. The performances provide entertainment for those on their way to work in the mornings.

The London Underground has also helped quite a few performers promote their professional careers. Some have been picked by music executives or talent recruiters. Hadar Manor, a talented Israeli woman who won the Emerging Talent Contest in 2007 and released her debut album *Crossing London*, was a busker. She eventually performed on national television and radio as well as at the Glastonbury Festival.

In China, meanwhile, buskers have a hard time getting respect from even those who walk by.

Hu Shoujun, professor at the School of Social Development and Public Policy at Fudan University, said he encourages citizens to be more tolerant of buskers.

"Buskers may also be artists," he said. "A Bin is an example. Many buskers in Beijing have performed at a high artistic level. It would be reasonable to zone off certain areas for busking and host busking contests, allowing buskers to blend into the cities."

# To be a singer

Young buskers struggle in big cities



*Underground - the common place for buskers singing*

By Liang Xiying

Walking on the streets, you're likely to encounter them. Some play the guitar, while others sing. You might ignore them, but on occasion, they'll grab your attention - buskers are an essential part of the urban experience, especially in modern-day China.

## A busker in Guangzhou

Chen Xiaobian, a sophomore at Xinghai Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou, has dreamed of singing for a living since he was a little boy.

After graduating from an arts high school, he spent two years saving money to enter the famous Xinghai Conservatory of Music, named after the great musician Xi Xinghai. In 2010, his dream finally came true.

Chen only has a few classes every week, so in order to practice more often, he takes to the streets. His guitar teacher first gave him the idea, which Chen thought was interesting and a good way to spread his reputation. But now he positively enjoys it.

"People enjoy my music and love my performance," he said. "I feel a sense of self-achievement. I really love it."

Chen always performs in the evenings. On a crowded street, he holds the microphone tightly and sings loudly. Sometimes, people drop him some money. He said he usually gets 200 yuan, but that he once went home with 500.

Chen has even scored invitations to events. Once, he was invited to audition for a film. The experience increased his confidence. When Chen's teacher heard, he began telling more students to hit the streets in their spare time.

As a busker, Chen is very lucky, thanks to his singing skills and professionalism. But most buskers in Guangzhou are not as lucky to have Chen's musical background and professional training. As Chen points out, they are amateurs while he is a professional.

Amateur buskers may not have the option of going part-time, either. They sing longer than Chen but earn less money, about 100 yuan every day. "The better you sing, the more you earn," Chen said.

## From Guangzhou to Beijing

In Beijing, buskers like Chen are very common. It can be a paradise for young singers with a dream.

Chen has also thought of Beijing as a city of opportunity.

But it can also be hell.

Lots of people want to be "the one," but the work can be strenuous. And in a city with so many people, it can be difficult to stand out.

Still, people try.

Wei Yong, a student at the Central Conservatory of Music, says he doesn't think about the future because the present is what's important.

He practices music every day, and then goes out to play. It makes him happy, he says.

He loves music so much that he invites his listeners to join in.

"The first step to becoming a

good singer is to be a good listener," Wei said.

After he graduates, Wei said he would like to find a place to sing all the time, maybe outside his friend's shop. It's not a crowded place, but he doesn't mind.

Wei said he doesn't care about money. He just wants to keep singing and playing for the audience. When someone gives him money, he'll give a big smile and say, "Thank you. I will go buy something to eat with the money."

"Maybe I can't be a professional singer in the future," he said, laughing. "But I can be the happiest singer on the streets."

## Buskers in pop culture

In the past, buskers have been treated like beggars. But in first-tier cities, they are more like freestyle artists who sing, play instruments, dance, paint and even write.

The money isn't important to most of them. They do what they do for happiness, and the audience's admiration or attention is enough motivation for them to keep going.

They can also seem like ghosts in the city, coming and going suddenly, chasing after dreams.

You can't catch them. You can only hope that they'll share a magical moment before going on their way, hitting another street in the big city.

## Factbox

According to a survey by students from the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, the majority of buskers are single males between the ages of 20 and 40. More than half of them play a musical instrument, and about 20 percent of them draw portraits. Most buskers have worked on the street for three to five years and often roam between cities. Thirty percent of interviewees said they were forced by economic hardship to become buskers, 55 percent of them said they just like performing and do it as a part-time job, and only 15 percent of buskers said they hope to be discovered and become a star through their work.

# Odd buskers

Are they beggars or street performers?



Footbridges are a common place for beggars to perform.

CFP photo

By Liu Xiaochen

Some view street performers as beggars, or – worse – “fake beggars.” But they are just trying to make a living – would you lend them a hand?

On a weekday morning, a middle-aged man in shabby clothes got on the metro at Majiabao Station of Beijing Subway Line 4. He played a small harmonica for a while and walked through the crowd asking for change. After two stations, he got off.

This scene is repeated on Beijing's subway lines every day. The timing is always perfect – neither at rush hour nor when passengers are scarce. There will always be people who pay just enough attention to them to give them some money.

Some of them speak sugary words, others kneel and kowtow, some move without a single word, and some play instruments and sing.

Begging on the subway is a relatively new development. The ones who do it for a living can often be seen moving from line to line, having mastered commuter schedules.

Others choose to beg aboveground, near traffic lights or bustling business districts such as Xidan or Wangfujing. Others root themselves at the entrance of a subway station, on a footbridge or near the entrance of a hotel.

Their health conditions vary. Some are disabled, some old

or feeble, and some are women holding toddlers. Very few are able-bodied.

According to *Beijing Morning Post*, most of the beggars are from rural areas. Some are actually only part-time beggars, with seasonal or even part-time jobs.

The practice of soliciting for money has become an industry of sorts.

There is a village called Jindingshan near Pingguoyuan Subway Station in Shijingshan District. According to *Beijing Evening News*, hundreds of beggars gather there, turning it into a slum. Many of the houses in the area have been demolished.

Around 10 am every day, beggars begin work by walking from Jindingshan Village to the subway.

“The rent here is cheap, about 300 to 400 yuan for a 10-square-meter house per month,” said one villager who has lived there for 30 years. “Some house-owners establish huts with cement next to their house and rent them out.”

A lot of beggars hail from the same place. One person arrives in Beijing first, and then bring along friends and family.

“There are many people begging in Beijing from my hometown,” said a beggar surnamed Wang from

Henan Province. “We all live here so that we can help each other.”

People also say beggars behave differently depending on where they're from. Those from Quan County of Henan Province dress in rags to obtain sympathy. Those from Zhumadian of Henan Province pretend to be ill or the victims of theft. And those from Anhui Province beg with their children, saying they need to collect tuition and living expenses.

Some run small businesses on the side. They might try to sell a 6-yuan umbrella for 10 yuan at the entrance of subways on rainy days, for example.

Many beggars said the situation is worse now than 10 years ago, when they could make 10,000 or even 20,000 yuan per month. Competition is the biggest factor. Some of them have decided to change “jobs” as a result.

Sociologist Li Yingsheng said street beggars should be managed. Public security departments should handle those who steal or do “illegal” begging. Those who have an impact on the “urban environment” and disrupt others' daily lives should be dealt with. And those who truly need help should be aided by the civil affairs departments.

## Debate

Do you give to beggars or ignore them?

I will if I'm in a good mood and have some change. To be honest, begging in public looks like a hard job to me, so if I can get a job instead of collecting plastic bottles, I would.

– James Alexander, business consultant

Never have and never will. But I think street performers are a different story. If you are doing a job and entertaining the public, you deserve to get some cash, but beggars get nothing. However, I'll buy some food to the street kids you see hanging around, but still never give them money.

– John Hardy, PR manager

I ignored beggars before. I had worked in Beijing for almost three years and encountered many of them. I always ignored them and believed they were all liars. But one day I went shopping with my colleague, he is a Turkish Muslim. We met an old beggar, she asked for my friend's help and my friend gave her money without any hesitation. I told him there were many liars. But he replied that we should not refuse to be a good man just because we're being cheated.

– Amy Yang, office worker

# The artist as critic

*Untitled No.6: Neon Light*

By Celine Lin

Born in Xinjiang in 1972, Beijing-based Xia Guo graduated from the Fine Arts Department of Xinjiang Normal University. Although he has held over a dozen exhibits both locally and internationally, Xia surprisingly refuses to be considered an artist; rather, he believes he is a worker creating reproducible "works" reflecting the current social and political status in China.

His recent solo exhibition at White Box Museum of Art in the 798 Art District opened in early December, and is named after Aldous Huxley's dystopian novel *Brave New World*. "I've read the book. The situation within the book is somewhat similar to the place I dwell," said Xia.

The artist's nine pieces of neon installation art, two paintings and one installation painting are displayed in a rectangular-shaped exhibition hall, a "dim, execution-ground-like place," describes Xia.

When ascending to the second floor of the gallery, viewers at first see a colorful LED light work "#07," that depicts the ancient Indian proverb "Let your soul catch up." Curator Dai Zhuoqun had the idea to put this on the wall.

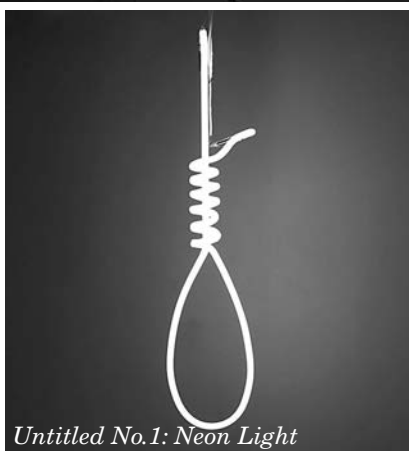
"I put this work in the middle part of the stairs for two reasons," said Dai. "Literally, I alert the audiences to watch their step. Figuratively, I want to remind them to not be influenced by the excessively rapid development of society and pay more attention to spirituality."

## Poignantly critical

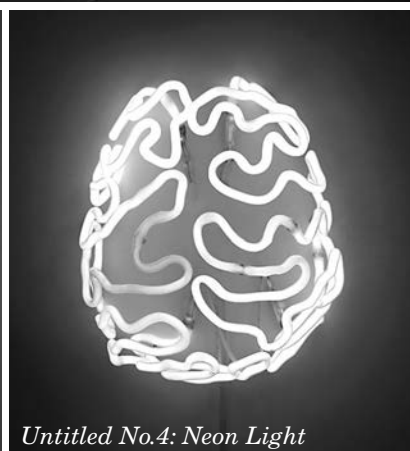
In Xia's neon series, he turned the heated glass tubes into a hanging noose, a brain, bows and arrows, barbed wire, and rope. He also utilizes a wasted Apple computer display, penetrating it with five neon tubes.

Xia attempts to criticize both consumerism and social conditions through these works. "As you can see, all the materials are not special at all; they are everywhere in our life." He strives to eliminate every possible connection with art, and claims that everybody, if he or she has the ability, can copy his works.

"What is art? Duchamp's urinal?" Xia prefers to refer to himself as an



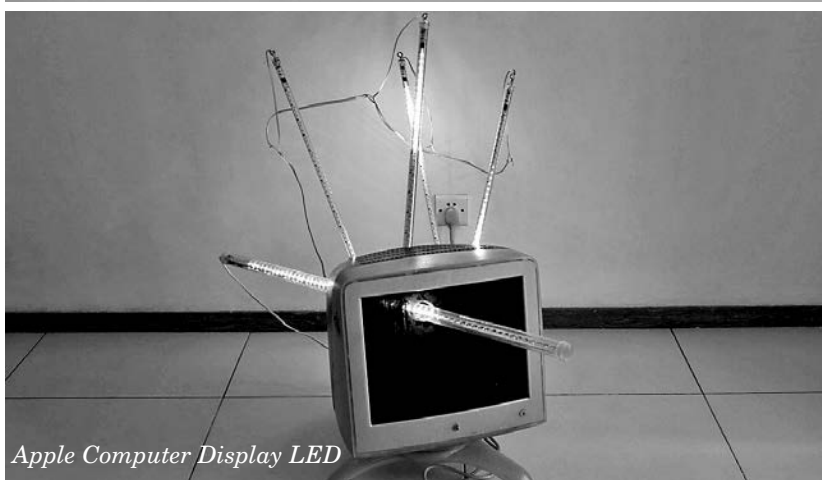
*Untitled No.1: Neon Light*



*Untitled No.4: Neon Light*



*No.8: Acrylic Propylene*



*Apple Computer Display LED*

expressionist, a worker in the assembly line, or a vigilant person who stimulates viewers to ponder the status quo of Chinese society.

"Artists solve nothing. The only thing they can do is to pursue all kinds of freedom, but it can't be realized in the brave new world," Xia said, rolling his eyes.

Since the images and symbols of the nine pieces of light sculpture are recognizable, Xia considers the physical materials, such as neon or inert gas, to be just glittering vehicles to enlighten the audience.

Although viewers can easily discern the appearance of his works, Xia never endows his works with particular titles, only numbers. "Specific titles will not only misguide the audience but also spotlight the disparities among the works, which is never my intention."

## Anti-art

Apart from the LED or neon works, Xia showcases his paintings, which are finished by semi-automatic carving machines. Xia is against traditional manual drawing. With the aid of machines, the paintings reveal apathy and are without personal emotions.

He intentionally avoids any personal "intervention" in the paintings, and strongly abandons any subjective perspective of these industrialized aesthetic features.

"All I've done was the vector drawings at the very beginning. Then the machine completes the rest of the work." Xia even regards all he has created as the result of an anti-art attitude.

As for the sole installation painting in this exhibition "No.10," Xia seems to return to the realm of art when he mentions two major artistic motifs: painting and sculpture.

"Shaped like a target with a digressed center, No. 10 is a combination of two traditional artistic forms." Xia manages to hang this work askew. "I hope to guide the viewers to watch a work from various perspectives instead of a sole, boring interpretation."

The exhibit will last until January 8. Xia's online exhibition *Puzzle Barrier* (Chinese only) kicked off on December 25 on the Digital Art Museum. It showcases his works completed from 2008 to 2012, and will last until 2014.

# Real shopping

By Annie Wei

Living in China, we are spoiled by inexpensive deals from Taobao and easy delivery service. However, for many shoppers, it's annoying to get things that look so different from their online images.

This week, *Beijing Today* finds new malls and websites that offer brands not previously available in the country.



## Shopbop

The American website shopbop.com has launched its Chinese service. Unlike net-a-porter.com, which sells luxury brands, Shopbop targets the younger crowd with chic and stylish options.

More and more Beijing women like buying things from shopbop.com.cn

"You can find authentic items from lesser known brands at reasonable prices," said Lu Mingyu, a young local woman who said she would buy more when the site offers promotions or discounts.

The site also offers a reliable shipping service and easy payment by credit cards, Lu said. Unlike some local luxury sites that only sell excess inventory in China, you can find the latest styles and fashion, Lu said.



Tibi (left) and Dr. Martens shoes from shopbop.com

CFP Photos

Pearson Longman English World



Photos by An Jianguo

## Parkview Green offers exclusive brands



COS men's wear section

Although the Parkview Green is still in the soft opening phase with only a few stores open, for shoppers looking for different brands, here you can already find COS, Ted Baker and Karen Millen.

COS, or Collection of Style, is part of the H&M Group, with the Parkview Green location their first store in China.

Compared to H&M, COS targets a more mature audience who like a minimalist urban look. It's sleek with Scandinavian simplicity.

For winter apparel, colors include dark blue, black, forest green and browns. The new arrivals for spring 2013 are lily white, cream and beige.

The prices are reasonable compared to other stores.

We like accessories such as underwear (250 yuan for lace bras), wool stockings (190 yuan) and wool hats (250 yuan). These daily-wear items are often hard to find in the right colors and quality from online vendors. For apparel, the 100 percent cashmere gray pajamas cost just 890 yuan.

If you are looking for something more feminine and stylish, try Karen Millen. It has many fabulous evening dresses, as well as colorful and trendy dailywear.

For British style, check out Ted Baker.

### Parkview Green Fangcaodi

Where: 9 Dongdaqiao, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 5690 7000

### colour / coloured

- ✗ She used a colour pencil to do the drawing.
- ✓ She used a coloured pencil to do the drawing.

- The adjective used with 'pencil' is 'coloured'.
- 'Colour' can be used with some nouns, such as 'colour TV' and 'colour photos'.

✓ This printer will print colour photos.

### busy time / rush hour

- ✗ In the busy-time, traffic is very congested.
- ✓ In the rush hour, traffic is very congested.

- The Chinese 繁忙時間 is the equivalent of the English expression 'rush hour'.

## Exercise

### Choose the correct words:

Which expression is normally used?

1. for the 'busiest time' for traffic

I try not to travel in the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. color / colored

a. I gave the child some \_\_\_\_\_ pencils.

b. My grandparents didn't have \_\_\_\_\_ TV when they were young.

Answers: 1. rush hour 2. a. colored b. color



### Book title

Common English Errors in Hong Kong (New Edition) 是一本专门为香港初、中级英文水平的学生所编写的自学教材。本书指出并纠正大量本地学生所常犯的英文文法与字法使用上的错误，并附有非常生动活泼的插图，深受青少年学生的青睐。

# Cozy meals in Wangjing

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* scouts three eateries in the Wangjing area with a reputation for good food and reasonable prices.



Lamb soup

CFP Photo

## Jianyangyang – lamb soup from Sichuan

Mutton is an ideal food for winter. In Chinese traditional medicine theory, mutton can boost one's blood circulation. Vivian Zheng, a woman from South China, said mutton soup was one of the best foods she found in the north – her monthly pain was relieved after she had her first mutton soup.

Local diners recommend Jianyang Yangtang. The soup has been stewed long enough to have a creamy color and nice aroma. The mutton is tender, fat but not greasy with long

lasting flavor.

Jianyang is a small city in Sichuan Province. Its mutton has been known as one of the most delicious in the country. In the early part of the 20th century, the local people crossbred local goats with a foreign breed to create tender, delicious and meat without the strong and pungent mutton smell and taste.

In Jianyang, the locals stew the soup with mutton, goat's internal organs and bones until the bones almost melt away. This makes the

soup full of flavor.

This restaurant ships all its mutton from Jianyang. To meet the demand, it built a 200-ton capacity frozen warehouse.

The soup base starts from 28 yuan and mutton starts from 68 yuan per 500 grams. Vegetables cost seven or eight yuan per serving.

### Jianyang Yangtang

Where: 3 Heyin Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6219 0608

## Ginseng chicken soup – warm, healthy and delicious



Ginseng chicken soup, starting at 60 yuan

Photo by An Jianguo

Ginseng chicken soup is a traditional Korean recipe known for its nutritional benefits.

Preparing a bowl of ginseng chicken soup is not complicated, but it takes time as it's stewed with a variety of herbs.

In the Wangjing area, Zhangshifu Shenjitang is recommended. The restaurant only serves ginseng chicken soup as the main dish, with no barbecue or cold noodles.

The soup comes in five varieties. The most highly recommended is soup and herbs (60 yuan), made with 10 kinds of herbs including ginseng, dates, garlic and sticky rice.

For people who suffer from stress, the eatery recommends soup with 20 kinds of herbs (100 yuan). It also has soup specialized for diners who feel muscle pains from exercises like playing soccer.

If you live in the neighborhood, you can ask them to deliver outside of peak hours.

The eatery only has a few tables, and there is always a long wait on cold days. The good news is that a second outlet is now open inside the building of Wangjing Seafood Market.

### Zhangshifu Shenjitang

Where: 1F, building 412, Wangji Xiyuan Siqu, Futong Xi Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – late

Tel: 6474 5062

## Delicious snacks at Dalu Korean barbeque

There are many Korean restaurants in the Wangjing area. Some barbeque restaurants attract lots of customers because of their affordable prices.

Among them, we recommend Dalu Korean barbeque. It's definitely not the cheapest, but it has cleaner indoor air and is not overcrowded.

What we like the most is the restaurant has special free snacks that others do not provide, like braised beef and spicy crab.

The braised beef is chewy and full of flavor. The crab is raw, then marinated in kimchi and chilies until the crab absorbs the flavors. The crab tastes sweet and fresh while and chilies are delicious and not very spicy. The snacks can be refilled for free.

For barbeque, we recommend the snowflake beef (108 yuan) – the fat grows in the meat like snowflakes, making it juicier. The tender yellow croakers (30 yuan for two tails) are also great, cooked in the kitchen then served paired with sauce and lemon.

### Dalu Hanguo Shaokao

Where: east gate of Wangjing Xiyuan Sanqu, Futong Xi Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – midnight

Tel: 6479 4695



Yellow croakers, 30 yuan



Snowflake beef, 108 yuan

Photos by An Jianguo